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SPINDLE GUARD MAKES SHAPER SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT

When machining wood on a single-spindle shaper it is desirable to have the cutterhead guarded. An appropriate guard will keep the operator's hands away from the shaper knives and will contain the knives should they break or come loose from the head.

We designed a guard for use on straight-line shaping jobs, such as tonguing, grooving, and rabbeting, on a Porter, Model 203, single-spindle shaper equipped with a fence and holddown (fig. 1). The guard is a 2-part steel enclosure (fig. 2) that is fully adjustable vertically and horizontally. A top hood fits over a bottom hood and, with the adjustable fence, they enclose the cutterhead except at the working point of the knives (fig. 3).

The top hood moves vertically with the adjustable holddown bars and horizontally from the fence to the holddown support. It is secured in position by tightening thumb screws against the holddown bars (fig. 4). Adjustable slides on either side of the top hood are held by wing nuts and can be moved to close the gap between the hood and the fence. On top of the hood there is a collar to which a flexible chip exhaust or dust-collection pipe can be attached. The guard can be adjusted without disconnecting the pipe.

The bottom hood of the guard is the same height as the fence, but is shorter than the top hood so that the top overhangs the fence when the bottom is set tight against the fence. The bottom hood is screwed to the shaper bed through slotted flanges (fig. 5) which allow adjustments in the fence position and also permit the hood to be pushed back out of the way while changing knives.

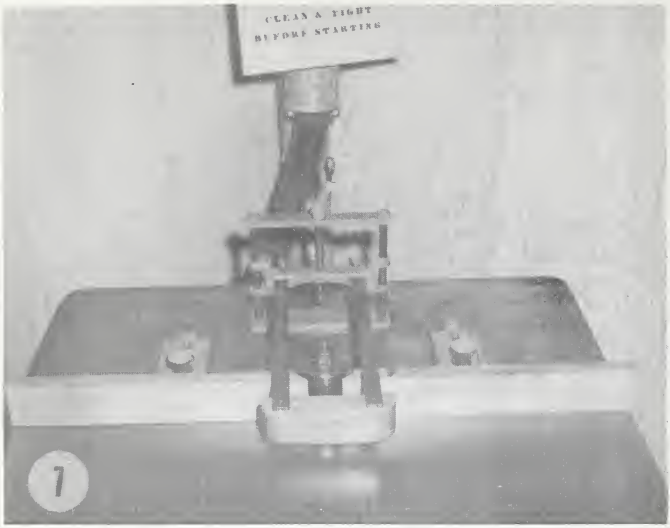


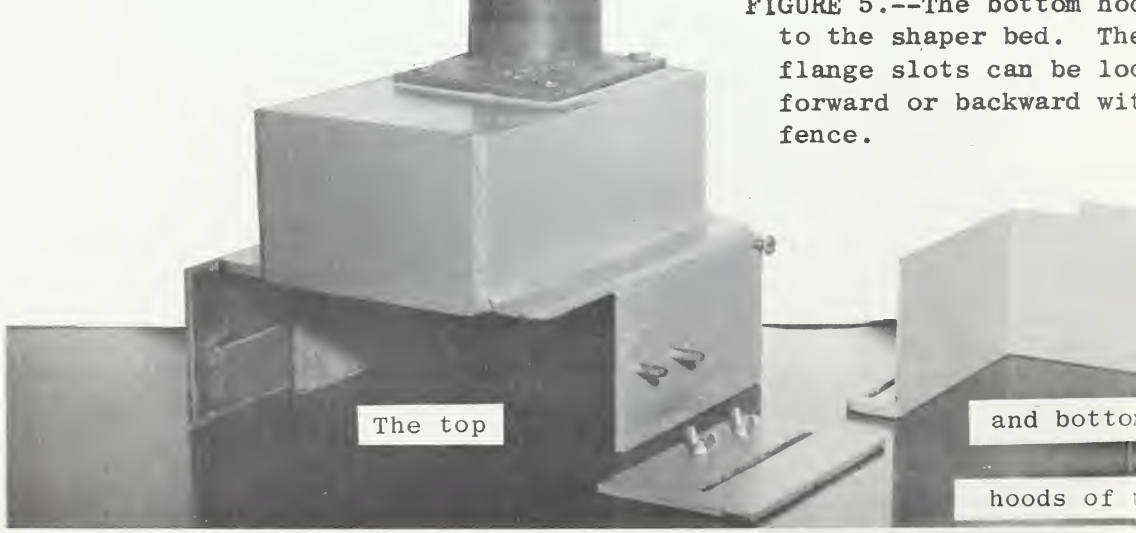
FIGURE 1.--The Porter, Model 203, single-spindle shaper adjustable holddown bar and straight-line shaping fen

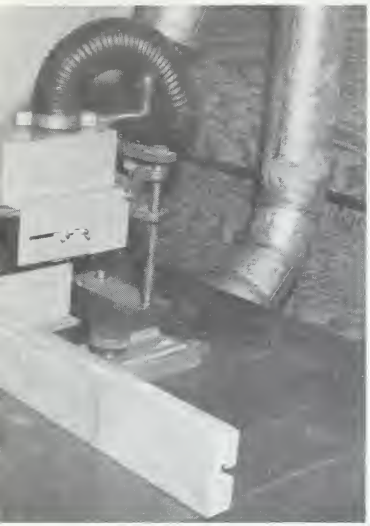
FIGURE 2.--Exploded view of the guard with the fence in hood raised, and the bottom hood pushed back.

FIGURE 3.--Guard in closed, operating position. Adjust gaps. The guard does not interfere with normal strai operations with either hand or power feeding.

FIGURE 4.--The top hood o on the adjustable holdo tighten the guard to th The slides on the sides held by wing nuts.

FIGURE 5.--The bottom hoo to the shaper bed. The flange slots can be loo forward or backward wit fence.





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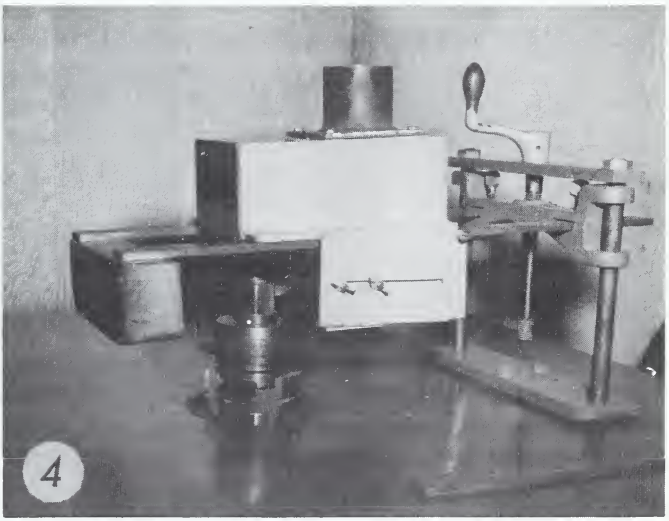

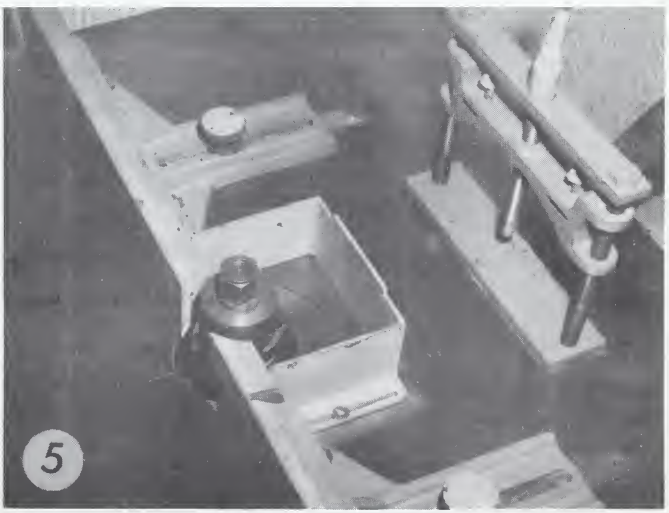

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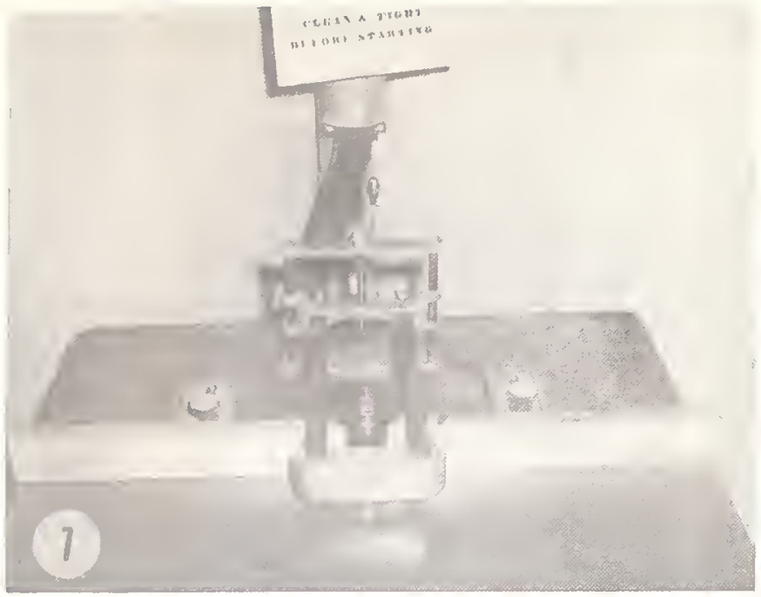


FIGURE 1.--The Porter, Model 203, single-spindle shaper equipped with an adjustable holddown bar and straight-line shaping fence.

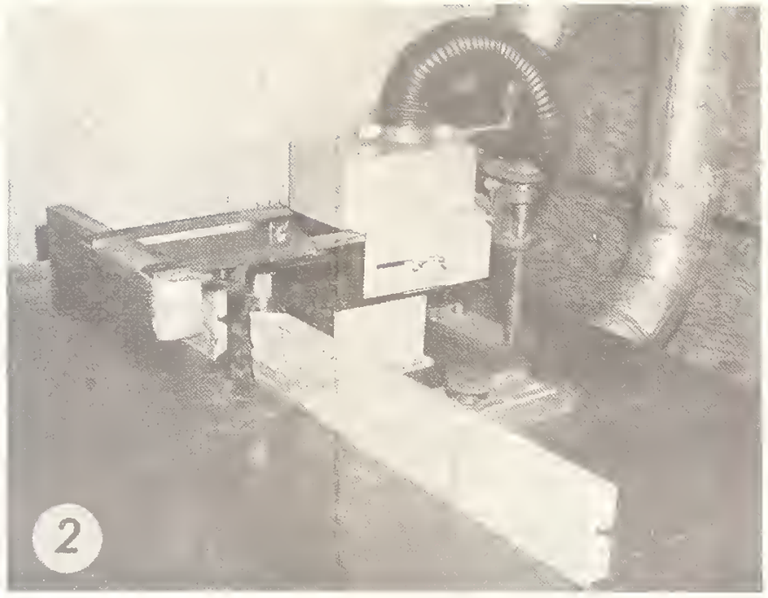


FIGURE 2.--Exploded view of the guard with the fence in place, the top hood raised, and the bottom hood pushed back.

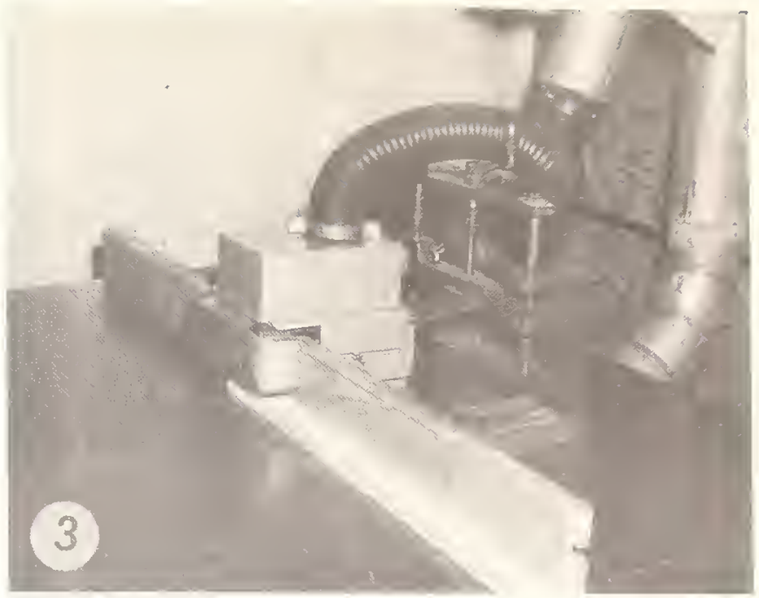


FIGURE 3.--Guard in closed, operating position. Adjustable slides close gaps. The guard does not interfere with normal straight-line shaping operations with either hand or power feeding.

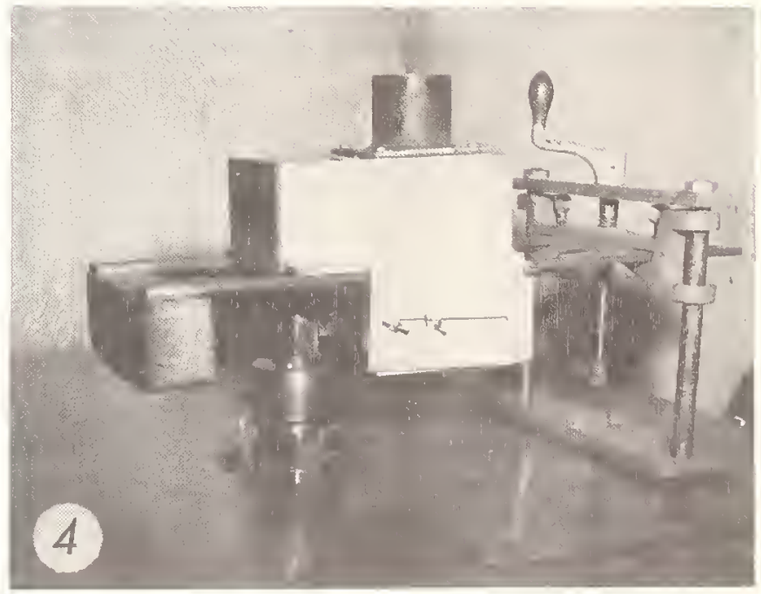


FIGURE 4.--The top hood of the guard mounted on the adjustable holddown. Thumb screws tighten the guard to the holddown bars. The slides on the sides of the hood are held by wing nuts.

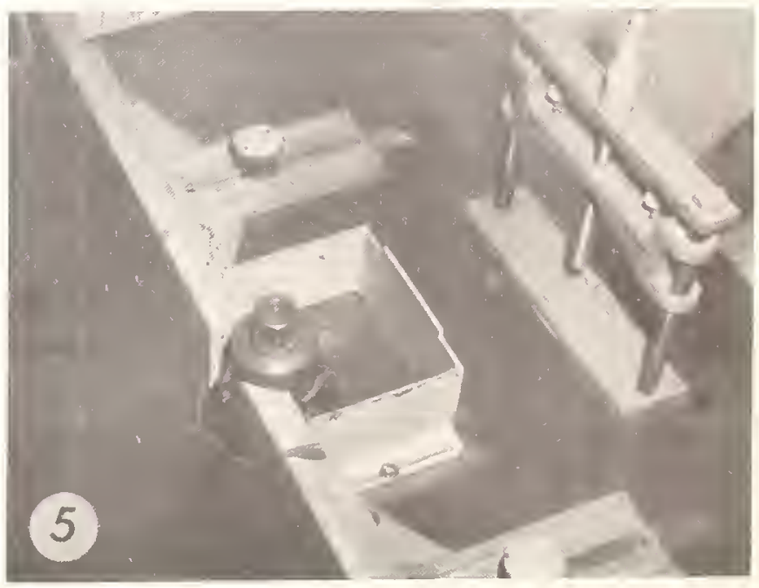
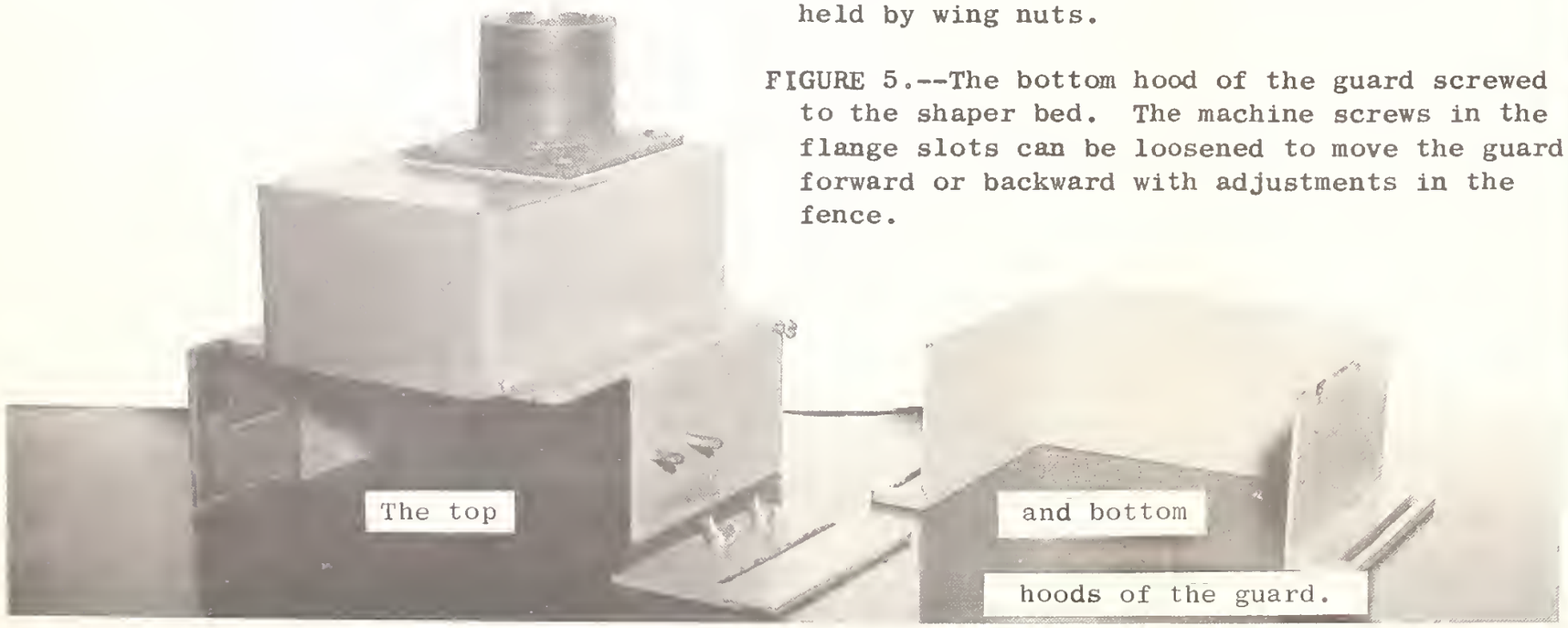


FIGURE 5.--The bottom hood of the guard screwed to the shaper bed. The machine screws in the flange slots can be loosened to move the guard forward or backward with adjustments in the fence.



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Although the guard shown in the accompanying plan is designed for the Porter, Model 203, shaper, it can easily be modified to fit any single-spindle shaper equipped with an adjustable holddown and fence. The guard must provide adequate clearance for anticipated vertical adjustments of the shaper spindle and must enclose, with clearance, the maximum cutting circle expected. This can be done by modifying the length and width of the parts. Care must be taken to fit the guard parts to the holddown bars and the fence, but no other dimensions are critical to fitting the machine. Two holes must be drilled and tapped in the shaper table to anchor the bottom hood. No other modifications of the shaper, holddown, or fence are required.

Parts for this inexpensive guard can be cut to length and welded together in about 2 hours by one man with cutting and welding equipment. In addition, about 2 man-hours are required for fitting, drilling, painting, and installation. All hardware is standard and readily available.

This guard not only protects the machine operator but also diverts the chips into the exhaust system thereby keeping the table free of waste material. Several benefits can result--fewer accidents, fewer rejects, and less maintenance cost--all of which can mean a saving in labor and material.

Glenn A. Cooper,
forest products technologist
Carbondale, Illinois (field office maintained in cooperation with Southern Illinois University)